

All communications should be
addressed to:
THE DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,
BOX 1433J, G.P.O., ADELAIDE.
TELEPHONE: 83 69



Statistical Bulletin No. 12 of 1961.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

In reply quote No.

EIGHTH FLOOR,
DA COSTA BUILDING,
68 GRENELL STREET,
ADELAIDE.

DIVORCE STATISTICS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1960

This bulletin gives particulars of writs issued and orders granted for divorce, judicial separation, annulment of marriage, and restitution of conjugal rights, during the year 1960 together with comparable data for previous years.

In 1960 there were 781 writs issued for divorce compared with 789 in 1959.

The number of orders for divorce nisi increased from 470 in 1959 to 698 in 1960 and the number of orders for divorce absolute increased from 503 to 610, the majority of the latter (326 or 53.4 per cent) being granted on the petition of wives.

Orders for divorce absolute granted on the ground of adultery numbered 274 in 1960 compared with 175 in 1959.

Of orders for divorce absolute granted on the petition of wives 31.3 per cent were for adultery, 33.7 per cent for desertion, and 30.4 per cent for habitual cruelty; of those granted on the petition of husbands 60.6 per cent were for adultery and 37.7 per cent for desertion.

The following table compares particulars of writs issued and orders granted during 1960 with those of the preceding seven years:-

TABLE 1 - WRITS ISSUED AND ORDERS GRANTED : SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1953 TO 1960

Particulars	YEARS							
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
WRITS								
Divorce	921	832	824	754	767	791	789	781
Judicial Separation	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Nullity of Marriage	2	6	9	15	11	5	6	8
Total	924	839	833	770	778	796	796	789
ORDERS								
Divorce - Nisi	634	654	516	613	482	537	470	698
Absolute	628	594	624	567	529	483	503	610
Judicial Separation	2	2	-	2	1	5	-	-
Nullity of Marriage - Nisi	2	7	6	14	5	10	5	11
Absolute	8	4	4	5	8	9	7	9
RESTITUTION OF CONJUGAL RIGHTS								
Writs	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Orders	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

The annual number of writs issued reached a record high level of 924 in 1953. In subsequent years, the number decreased steadily to 770 in 1956 but increased to 796 during 1958 and 1959. The number for 1960 was slightly less at 789.

The annual number of divorces absolute reached a peak of 695 in 1947. However, it should be noted that a rise or fall in the number of orders made during a year does not necessarily reflect a similar movement in writs issued in that year, because the number of actions awaiting trial at the end of each year varies considerably.

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

1948 12 15 10 00 AM

- 2 -

TABLE 2 - DIVORCES ABSOLUTE AND ANNULMENTS OF MARRIAGE: GROUNDS -
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1953 to 1960

Grounds for Divorce or Nullity	Year							
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
DIVORCES ABSOLUTE								
Adultery	240	216	238	208	190	203	175	274
Desertion	264	248	251	239	209	190	224	217
Habitual Cruelty	107	113	113	103	111	82	90	103
Insanity	3	4	4	-	3	1	5	3
Drunkenness	10	6	9	11	9	4	4	9
Failure to Maintain	3	3	6	3	2	1	3	4
Other	1	4	3	3	5	2	2	-
Total	628	594	624	567	529	483	503	610
ANNULMENTS OF MARRIAGE								
Impotence	4	4	1	1	5	6	5	-
Bigamy	2	-	2	2	2	2	-	1
Invalid Marriage	2	-	1	2	1	1	-	4
Non Consummation	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4

In the immediate post-war period adultery was the main ground for divorce (of the 1,953 divorces absolute granted in the three years 1945 to 1947, 1,197 were for adultery compared with only 585 for desertion and 101 for habitual cruelty). Subsequently divorces for adultery have become much less frequent and since 1949 have exceeded those for desertion in only 1958 and 1960.

TABLE 3 - DIVORCES ABSOLUTE: SEX OF PETITIONER AND GROUNDS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1953 to 1960

Grounds for Divorce	Year							
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
DIVORCES ON PETITION OF HUSBANDS								
Adultery	145	129	138	140	121	126	108	172
Desertion	113	124	115	117	103	88	108	107
Habitual Cruelty	4	5	7	5	6	5	-	4
Insanity	3	3	4	-	2	-	3	1
Drunkenness	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Failure to Maintain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	2	3	1	1	1	-	-
Total	266	264	267	264	233	220	220	284
DIVORCES ON PETITION OF WIVES								
Adultery	95	87	100	68	69	77	67	102
Desertion	151	124	136	122	106	102	116	110
Habitual Cruelty	103	108	106	98	105	77	90	99
Insanity	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	2
Drunkenness	9	5	9	10	9	4	3	9
Failure to Maintain	3	3	6	3	2	1	3	4
Other	1	2	-	2	4	1	2	-
Total	362	330	357	303	296	263	283	326

During the years 1945 and 1947 (the first for which details of the sex of petitioners are available) the majority of divorces absolute were granted on the petition of husbands. In each subsequent year, however, more divorces absolute have been granted on the petition of wives, the proportion in 1960 (53.4 per cent of the total) being slightly less than in recent years.

During 1960, 33.7 per cent of divorces on petition of wives were granted for desertion while habitual cruelty and adultery remained frequent grounds. During the same period 98.2 per cent of all divorces on the petition of husbands were on the grounds of adultery or desertion.

1900

100
100
100

100
100
100

100
100
100

100
100
100

- 3 -

Table 4 shows the ages at time of marriage of husbands and wives divorced during 1960.

TABLE 4- DIVORCES ABSOLUTE : AGE AT MARRIAGE - SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1960

Age of Husband	1960									1959 Total
	Age of Wife									
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & over	Not Stated	Total	
Under 20	20	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	26	25
20 - 24	111	141	14	2	-	-	-	-	268	226
25 - 29	30	93	35	9	2	-	-	-	169	143
30 - 34	5	25	18	13	3	1	-	-	65	46
35 - 39	-	12	7	7	1	1	-	-	28	26
40 - 44	-	1	2	6	4	2	4	-	19	18
45 & over	-	-	1	3	2	6	11	-	23	15
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	4
Total 1960	166	277	78	40	12	10	15	12	610	503
1959	142	205	77	40	16	12	7	4		

In recent years, little more than 20 per cent of all brides married before reaching 20 years of age. However, 166, or 27.2 per cent of the 610 wives divorced in 1960 (whose ages at marriage are known) were less than 20 years of age when married. On the other hand, approximately 50 per cent of all brides were between 20 and 24 years of age when married, but only 277, or 45.4 per cent of wives divorced in 1960 were married while in this age group.

In Table 5, details are shown of the duration and issue (living children under 16 years) of marriages in respect of which divorces absolute were granted in the year 1960, and totals for years 1957 to 1959.

TABLE 5- DIVORCES ABSOLUTE : DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1957 to 1960.

Duration of Marriage (years)	1960								1959 Total	1958 Total	1957 Total
	Living Children under 16 years							Total			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 & over				
0 - 4	32	17	7	1	-	-	-	57	42	39	59
5 - 9	82	50	34	13	-	1	-	180	180	150	179
10 -14	52	42	46	21	10	2	1	174	118	142	125
15 -19	18	15	22	19	6	3	3	86	82	78	79
20 -24	16	20	16	4	2	5	1	64	40	41	42
25 -29	17	6	6	2	-	-	1	32	19	16	23
30 -34	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	10	16
35 -39	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	5	3
40 -44	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2
45 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Total 1960	232	152	131	60	18	11	6	610	503	483	529
1959	193	126	110	54	15	2	3				
1958	165	142	87	57	25	4	3				
1957	197	146	106	53	20	5	2				

In each of the four years for which details are shown in the above table, more of the divorces granted were in the 5 to 9 year duration group than in any of the other quinquennial groups.

During the past ten years there has been an increase in the proportion of divorces which involved 2 or more living issue under the age of 16 years. In 1949 these amounted to only 19.5 per cent of all divorces absolute, but in 1960 the corresponding percentage was 37.0 per cent.

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court

State of New York

No.		Name		Age		Sex		Color		Height		Weight		Build		Eyes		Hair		Skin		Tattoos		Scars		Fingerprints		Signature		Date		Place		Remarks	
1	1000	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
2	1001	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
3	1002	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
4	1003	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
5	1004	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
6	1005	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
7	1006	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
8	1007	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
9	1008	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None
10	1009	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	45	45	M	M	W	W	5' 10"	5' 10"	170	170	Medium	Medium	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Fair	Fair	None	None	None	None	None	None	John W. Lawrence	John W. Lawrence	1900	1900	New York	New York	None	None

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

John W. Lawrence, Clerk of the Court
State of New York
1900

- 4 -

Table 6 sets out the ages at time of divorce of husbands and wives divorced in the years 1957 to 1960, with a cross-classification for 1960.

TABLE 6 - DIVORCES ABSOLUTE: AGE AT TIME OF DIVORCE - SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1957 to 1960.

Age of Husband	1960								1959 Total	1958 Total	1957 Total
	Age of Wife							Total			
	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & over	Not Stated				
Under 25	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	8	4	10
25-29	33	43	4	2	-	-	-	82	75	62	70
30-34	10	38	49	11	-	-	-	108	108	108	138
35-39	3	15	54	44	7	2	-	125	102	99	93
40-44	1	1	14	37	32	7	-	92	69	87	86
45 and over	-	-	8	25	39	107	-	179	137	108	129
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	4	15	3
Total 1960	58	98	129	119	78	116	12	610	503	483	529
1959	39	97	113	91	66	93	4				
1958	34	101	111	95	54	73	15				
1957	46	110	127	78	73	92	3				

The above table shows that the number of divorces for husbands aged between 30 and 34 has declined in recent years, while the number in the 35 to 39 age group has increased. Similarly, the number of divorces of wives aged between 25 and 29 has declined, while the number aged between 35 and 39 has increased.

NOTE -

When analysing the figures shown in the above tables, it should be remembered that there are more existing marriages of short duration than long. Therefore the 16 divorces in Table 5 in the 30 to 34 years duration group in 1959 may be a greater proportion of existing marriages of that duration than the 19 in the 25 to 29 years duration group. In view of this there is a very significant difference between the number of divorces in the 0 to 4 years duration group and those in subsequent groups.

D.L.J. Aitchison,

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics,
ADELAIDE, S.A.

12th May, 1961.

